**REMARKS**

The Office Action and the cited and applied references have been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. New claims 47-50 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

The examiner finds that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Appropriate correction is being made.

Claims 14, 15, 18, 19, 37 and 38 have been objected to as being dependent upon a non-elected claim. This objection is moot in view of the cancellation of the objected claims.

Claims 15, 19 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Cancellation of claims 15, 19, and 38 obviates this rejection. New claims 47-50 avoid this indefiniteness issue.

Claims 14, 18 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the examiner states that the specification, while being enabling for claims limited in scope to a method to treat for alleviating a disease with said composition, does not reasonably provide enablement for claims to a method to treat for preventing or remedying a disease with said composition. While applicants disagree and do not concede to the examiner's position, this rejection is nevertheless obviated by the cancellation of the rejected claims without prejudice. New claims 47-50 are not subject to the issues raised in this rejection.

Claims 14, 15, 18, 19, 37, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi et al (J. Immunol. Methods 1997, 206:107-113) in view of Kohno et al. (Clin. Immunol. Immunopath, 1998 86(1):11-15).

As recited in new claims 47-51, the presently claimed invention is a method to treat a living body by administering an effective amount of a composition which comprises an artificially produced peptide. The peptide (a) comprises a part or the whole of amino acid sequences of variable regions in a naturally occurring human or non-human IL-18 antibody, and (b) has an activity of neutralizing a biological activity of IL-18 but does not completely contain the amino acid sequences of the constant regions of said non-human IL-18 antibody. In short, the peptide is a peptide which is obtained by altering a "naturally occurring antibody" using artificial means. The peptide does not completely contain the amino acid sequences of the constant regions of non-human IL-18 antibody, as supported in the specification at page 8, second paragraph to page 10, first paragraph. By contrast a "naturally occurring antibody" completely contains the amino acid sequences of the constant regions of non-human IL-18 antibody.

Please note that a "naturally occurring antibody" means an antibody which is obtainable through the step of sensitizing a non-human mammal with human or non-human IL-18. For example, the #125-2H monoclonal antibody disclosed in the present specification and the monoclonal antibodies disclosed in

Taniguchi and Kohno cited by the examiner are the examples of "naturally occurring antibody".

The artificially produced peptide, as recited in the presently claimed method, is clearly distinguished from the antibodies disclosed in Taniguchi and Kohno with regard to whether or not it completely contains the amino acid sequences of the constant regions. Neither Taniguchi nor Kohno alone or in combination suggest the presently claimed method in which an artificially produced peptide according to the present invention is used. Furthermore, Taniguchi and Kohno neither disclose nor suggest that the various diseases as defined in new claims 47-51 can be treated with the artificially produced peptide of the present invention. Accordingly, Taniguchi and Kohno cannot make obvious the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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